A3275-2

trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1920 L STREET, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 · 202/293-4196

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 13, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 8 totaled an estimated 18.3 billion ton-miles, 6.5 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 10 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 172 billion ton-miles, 11.7 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 8 totaled 440,904 cars, 3.3 percent below 1979, and 3.9 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 2.7 percent in the West, but down 10.8 percent in the East, and 4.1 percent in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 15 of the 21 commodity groups declined. However, grain loadings were up 7,892 cars, or 36.2 percent, and coal traffic showed a gain of 2,412 cars, or 2.5 percent. Eighteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 1 totaled 34,680 cars, down 7.1 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 63,780 trailers and/or containers, 4.5 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 9 weeks of the year was 297,073 cars, 1.9 percent higher than last year, and 537,077 trailers and/or containers, up 4.2 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/8/80.

	Loadings in Week ended March 8, 1980	Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week		
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	29,713	I	7,892	36.2	D	1,108	3.6
Other farm products	3,882	I	69	1.8	D	274	6.6
Metallic ores	24,845	D	4,803	16.2	I	1,685	7.3
Coal	100,126	I	2,412	2.5	D	6,396	6.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,953	D	3,173	21.0	D	1,708	12.5
Nonmetallic minerals	13,661	D	1,296	8.7	D	627	4.4
Grain mill products	17,963	I	291	1.6	D	579	3.1
Food and kindred products	19,184	I	703	3.8	D	514	2.6
Primary forest products	19,059	D	1,614	7.8	D	2,080	9.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	10,202	D	1,242	10.9	D	1,601	13.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	21,599	I	1,061	5.2	D	868	3.9
Chemicals and allied products	29,318	D	1,127	3.7	D	1,482	4.8
Petroleum products	6,072	D	705	10.4	D	293	4.6
Stone, clay and glass products	15,140	D	2,493	14.1	D	1,079	6.7
Coke	6,772	D	1,072	13.7	D	291	4.1
Metals and products	18,626	D	232	1.2	D	690	3.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,764	D	5,146	19.9	D	335	1.6
Waste and scrap materials	13,661	D	996	6.8	D	380	2.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	12,461	D	1,598	11.4	I	178	1.4
All other carloads	45,653	D	1,918	4.0	I	424	0.9
LCL traffic	250	D	263	51.3	D	48	16.1
Total Cars Loaded	440,904	D	15,250	3.3	D	18,066	3.9
Corresponding week of 1979	456,154						

	1980	1979	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (10 weeks)	4,355,052	4,079,610	I	6.8
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
9 weeks cumulative	153.2	136.4	I	12.3
Week ended March 8	18.3	17.2	I	6.5
10 weeks cumulative	171.5	153.6	I	11.7

AARt-031380